

Over the past seven years, the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) has offered over 30 awards to graduate students at York University to support their language training and research fieldwork in Asia and the Diaspora.

The 2012 awards are supporting fieldwork in China and the Philippines, and Khmer and Mandarin language studies.



Kaitlin Weedmark-Kish, a first year master's student in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, is the 2012 recipient of the **Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award**.

The Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award is named for the Honourable Vivienne Poy and assists a graduate student in fulfilling the fieldwork requirement for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. YCAR is grateful for Senator Poy's continued support for this award.

Weedmark-Kish's research concerns the health implications of rapid environmental change in Shanghai on its elderly population. Through a unique application of soft systems methodologies, using open interviews, rich picture development and transect walks, she is exploring issues of health within the context of social dominance and power over the past 30 years.

She is also the recipient of a YCAR Language Award. While conducting her fieldwork in Shanghai in summer and early fall 2012, Weedmark-Kish also took intermediate Mandarin language classes at Fudan University.

A doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography, **Laura Schoenberger**'s dissertation research examines recent changes to land control in Cambodia and the counter-movements that have emerged to assert local rights to land. As a recipient of a **YCAR Language Award**, Schoenberger studied Khmer at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at University Wisconsin-Madison this summer.

Schoenberger has an MA in Geography from McGill University and a BA in International Development Studies. Before starting her PhD, she worked for the United Nations in Lao PDR, for environmental non-governmental organizations in Vietnam and Cambodia, and for Canada's International Development Research Centre in Ottawa and Singapore.

The **YCAR Language Award** was created to support graduate students in fulfilling the language requirement for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) and to facilitate awardees' masters or doctoral-level research.

The 2012 **Albert C. W. Chan Foundation Fellowship** will fund research on whether long - term family separation (for example, as an outcome of Canada's Live - In Caregiver Programme), results in enduring and pervasive adverse effects on the socioeconomic, cultural and political engagement of children of Filipina migrant domestic workers as adults.

Recipient **Conely de Leon**, a doctoral candidate on the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University, will be conducting dissertation fieldwork in Manila, Philippines during the coming academic year.

More specifically, her research will focus on the relationships that adult children now in Canada have to extended kin, often identified as grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and close family friends, who acted as their 'primary' caregivers in the Philippines while separated from their mothers. By exploring these relationship dynamics through one - on - one, in - depth interviews, de Leon hopes to offer some insight into the complexities of long - term family separation and its impact on the socioeconomic, cultural and political development of children of Filipina migrant domestic workers into adulthood.



de Leon received her MA in Sociology and Equity Studies in Education,

and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto, and her BA (Honours) in Women's Studies, and English Language and Literature at Queen's University. Her research interests focus on critical race theory, transnational feminist praxis, gender and migration, and the development of Critical Filipino Studies in Canada.

The Fellowship was established by the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation to encourage and assist York University graduate students to conduct field research in East and/or Southeast Asia. YCAR would like to thank the Albert C. W. Chan family for their support of York graduate students.

The deadline for 2013 awards is **11 February 2013**.

For more information about YCAR Awards, please visit:
www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR_Awards.html.

Young Leaders' Delegation

In 2012, YCAR also hosted an award competition that offered an extraordinary opportunity for York students – a week-long study visit to the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Four spots were available as part of a 12-student delegation that also included senior undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Toronto and Wilfrid Laurier University. Students of all York faculties were eligible to apply for the Young Leaders' Delegation opportunity.

The study visit was organized and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (ROC/Taiwan).

The York University awardees were **Rebecca Beaulne-Stuebing** (Masters Candidate, Education); **Josh Fawcett Weiner** (Masters Candidate, Political Science); **Trevor Kezwer** (fourth year undergraduate student, Political Science); and **Lydia Guo** (Osgoode JD programme).

2012 York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) Award Recipients



The delegation at Longshan Temple

The week-long visit focused on introducing students to Taiwan and its challenges in a context of global political and economic change. It was an intensive schedule of briefings by Taiwan and Canadian government representatives, Taiwan political parties, think tanks and scholars, as well as cultural activities, said delegation leader Susan Henders (Political Science).

Each of the student delegates had to complete an essay on the theme of "Taiwan in Changing Global Political and Economic Order" before flying to Taipei. Once in Taiwan, the students honed their presentation and discussion skills by presenting their papers to two audiences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as one at National Chengchi University. Each presentation was followed by an intensive question and answer session with a knowledgeable local audience.

"It was an amazing professional development opportunity for the students," said Henders. "Not only did they learn a great deal about the international and domestic situation in Taiwan in the context of wider global developments, but they learned to present and defend an academic paper. The audiences in Taiwan were gracious, but sharp. The exchange of ideas was great."